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It appears that the only effective parliamentary action on finance in Great Britain is the criticism of the Committee on Public Accounts on the audited financial reports. Not even the House of Commons either controls or effectively criticises the financial proposals of the ministry. The recent Committee on Estimates was an indication that the need for a more direct supervision by the House of Commons has been felt in Great Britain. In view of this situation, it would be a serious mistake to introduce in this country a budget system which would reduce our legislative bodies to the function of ratifying executive proposals, as is now the case in the British system.

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SOCIOLOGY

CASTLE, W. E. *Genetics and Eugenics*. Pp. vi, 353. Price, \$1.50. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1916.

This is a welcome addition to the rapidly growing list of books which set forth the newer results and problems of biology and show their application to human life. Moreover, it is well illustrated.

Beginning with Darwin, we are taken through the period of Weismann and the controversy over the question of the inheritance of acquired characters. Then we are told of the Mutation theory and the work of Mendel and his successors. Several chapters deal with the unit characters of rodents, cattle and horses, sheep, swine, dogs, cats, poultry and insects. Attention is then directed to the questions of sex determination, size inheritance, and some of the other disputed points.

Beginning with page 233 human heredity is discussed. The author questions (on social rather than physical grounds) the wisdom of crosses between widely separated human races and holds that there is not enough evidence to justify the popular objection on physical grounds alone. Much information has been gathered with reference to human heredity, but Dr. Castle feels that a large part of this is unreliable "because of the careless or biased way in which it has been gathered, or the uncritical treatment which it has received in publication." He feels that in America there is a danger that the biologically unfit may increase more rapidly than the biologically fit. Yet there is great danger in the assumption that we now know enough to start a program of positive eugenics. "Practically, therefore, we are limited to such eugenic measures as the individual will voluntarily take in the light of present knowledge of heredity."

In the appendix is given a translation of Mendel's original paper on *Experiments in Plant-Hybridization*.

The volume will be of great interest and value to laymen as well as biologists; indeed, we may assume that the latter know the facts now.

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